

Message Text

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64

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 SAB-01 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 OMB-01 AID-20 DPW-01 DRC-01 /128 W

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R 181335Z JAN 74

FM AMEMBASSY TEL AVIV

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1216

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

USINT CAIRO

AMCONSUL JERUSALEM

USMISSION USUN

USMISSION GENEVA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

UNCLAS TEL AVIV 0305

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF

SUBJ: ALLON ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT

GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL

1. DEFPRIMIN ALLON IN JANUARY 17 TV INTERVIEW OUTLINED GOI VIEWS ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT, EMPHASIZING IN SOBER BUT CONFIDENT MANNER THAT HE REGARDED AGREEMENT AS PROVIDING ISRAEL WITH SECURITY FROM SUDDEN ATTACK AND OPENING PATH TO OVERALL SETTLEMENT. THIS WAS OBVIOUS FIRST SHOT IN GOVERNMENT'S PUBLIC CAMPAIGN TO EXPLAIN AGREEMENT AND TO COUNTER THRUST OF LIKELY CRITICISM. MAIN POINTS AS SUMMARIZED JAN 18 IN JERUSALEM PSOT (OFFICIAL TEXT NOT AVAILABLE) ARE AS FOLLOWS:

2. DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT CONTAINED " VERY GOOD INDEED-- ALTHOUGH PERHAPS NOT EXCELLENT--CONDITIONS" FOR ISRAEL. TERMS OF AGREEMENT DID NOT PROVIDE EITHER SIDE WITH EVERYTHING IT DEMANDED, BUT AT SAME TIME IT SERVED INTEREST OF BOTH SIDES.

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NEITHER SIDE HAD IMPOSED ITS DEMANDS ON OTHER, NOR HAD

SECRETARY IMPOSED HIS OWN VIEWS ON EITHER ISRAEL OR EGYPT.

3. KISSINGER'S ROLE HAD BEEN " INDISPENSABLE" AND HE HAD SHOWN HIMSELF A CONSUMATE DIPLOMAT, FAITHFULLY SERVING PRESIDENT'S BROAD AIM OF ENDING EAR OF CONFRONTATION AND BEGINNING NEW ERA OF CONSULATION.

4. IN BALD GEOGRAPHIC TERMS, ISRAEL WAS CARRYING OUT UNILATERAL WITHDRAWAL, BUT IN FACT WITHDRAWAL ACHIEVED AIMS WHICH ISRAEL HAD SOUGHT WHEN IT ORIGINALLY CROSSED CANAL AND ENCIRCLED EGYPTIAN THIRD ARMY.

5. ALLON DENIED THAT ISRAEL'S POSITION HAD BEEN ERODED DURING NEGOTIATIONS. MOREOVER, IT WAS NOT AT ALL CERTAIN THAT BETTER TERMS COULD HAVE BEEN ATTAINED THREE YEARS AGO. EGYPT'S TERMS THEN HAD BEEN " MUCH WORSE" THAN THOSE IT HAD NOW ACCEPTED.

6. IMPLEMENTATION OF DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT WOULD TAKE SEVERAL WEEKS. DETAILED TIMETABLE REMAINED TO BE WORKED OUT. ISRAEL WOULD BE ABLE TO RELEASE MEN FROM ARMY SERVICE ONCE DISENGAGEMENT WAS EFFECTIVE--WHETHER OR NOT EGYPT SIMILARLY SCALED DOWN ITS MANPOWER ON CANAL'S EAST BANK.

7. DISENGAGEMENT WAS NOT END OF ROAD. WHILE IT HAD BEEN NEGOTIATED AS SEPARATE AND INDEPENDENT ENTITY, BOTH SIDES HAD UNDERTAKEN THAT ONCE DISENGAGEMENT HAD BEEN IMPLEMENTED THEY WOULD MOVE ON TO NEGOTIATIONS ON OVERALL SETTLEMENT.

8. ISRAEL'S NEW DEFENSE LINE WOULD BE MILITARILY SOUND--AND BOTH DEFMIN AND CHIEF OF STAFF HELD THIS VIEW.

9. NEXT STAGE MIGHT BE DISENGAGEMENT TALKS WITH SYRIA--IF SYRIA AGREED TO PUBLISH NAMES OF ISRAELI PRISONERS AND ALLOW RED CROSS VISITATION. SUCH TALKS MIGHT BE HELD BY ISRAELI-SYRIAN MILITARY WORKING GROUP AT GENEVA. GENEVA CONFERENCE HAD BY NO MEANS BEEN " PUT IN THE SHADE" BE DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT.

KEATING

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: AGREEMENTS, PRESS CONFERENCES, PEACE TALKS, MUTUAL FORCE REDUCTIONS, POW RETURN
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 18 JAN 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974TELAV00305
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: TEL AVIV
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740130/aaaabcim.tel
Line Count: 99
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: martinml
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 03 OCT 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <03 OCT 2002 by rowelle0>; APPROVED <20-Nov-2002 by martinml>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: ALLON ON DISENGAGEMENT AGREEMENT GENEVA FOR MEPC DEL
TAGS: PFOR, IS, XF, (ALLON, YIGAL)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005